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LATIN AMERIC

LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 16 NOVEMBER 1984.

FROM:

DDI/O/CPAS.

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CHILE: CONFRONTATION POSSIBLE

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Declassified and Approved for Release July 2000

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2. CHILE: CONFRONTATION POSSIBLE

THE ARRESTS YESTERDAY OF HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS OF A LARGE WORKING CLASS DISTRICT IN SANTIAGO MAY PROVOKE FURTHER VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, GOVERNMENT TROOPS SEALED OFF THE DISTRICT, WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ANTIREGIME MILITANCY. MEANWHILE, MODERATE AND RADICAL LEFTIST OPPOSITION LEADERS WHU ARE RESPUNSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING THE PROTEST SCHEDULED FOR 27-28 NOVEMBER HOPE TO CLOSE DOWN THE CAPITAL BUT AVOID MAJOR STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. THE ORGANIZERS AND TO REACT VIGOROUSLY IF DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR.

COMMENT: THE NEIGHBORHOOD SWEEP, THE SECOND IN A WEEK, IS INTENDED TO ROUND UP LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AND INTIMIDATE SLUMDWELLERS. NEVETHELESS, VIOLENCE MAY INCREASE, PARTICULARLY IF LOCAL PRIESTS AND LEADERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PLAY A MORE DIRECT ROLE IN PROTEST ACTIVITY BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO'S STRONG CRITICISM OF THE STATE OF SIEGE.

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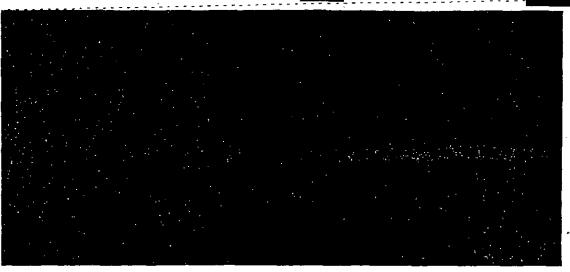
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